



TRANSPORTATION

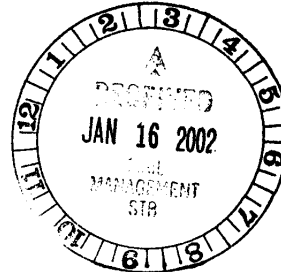
Nancy B. Reynolds
Manager Line Transactions
Asset Management

204436

500 Water Street - J200
Jacksonville, FL 32202
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E-Mail: Nancy_Reynolds@csx.com

October 23, 2001

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 "K" Street NW -Suite 534
Washington, DC 20423-0001



RE: CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.
PROPOSED ABANDONMENT
RUPERT JUNCTION TO CLEARCO
GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
DOCKET NO. AB-55 (SUB. NO 598X)

Gentlemen:

This refers to CSX Transportation's Notice of Exemption, filed September 21, 2001, requesting authority to abandon its line of railroad as above-described.

Your attention is called to the Environmental Report as follows:

Section 8 (i) regarding endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat. Attached as information is response dated October 9, 2001, from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Elkins, WV.

Sincerely,

Nancy B. Reynolds

Attachment

Copy:

Ms. N. S. Rosenberg, Counsel, CSXT, 500 Water Street - J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202

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RECEIVED
10-16-01

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

West Virginia Field Office
694 Beverly Pike
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

OCT 09 2001



Nancy B. Reynolds
CSX Transportation
500 Water Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Ms. Reynolds:

This responds to your information request of August 15, 2001 regarding the potential impacts of a proposed project on wetlands and federally listed endangered and threatened species and species of concern. CSX Transportation proposes abandonment approximately 13.6 miles of its trail line between Rupert Junction and Clearco in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. No new access roads would be constructed. Debris would be transported off site and would not be discarded along the right of way or in streams or wetlands. During track removal, appropriate measures would be implemented to prevent or control spills. Therefore, no forest clearing would result from this project.

No federally listed endangered and threatened species or species of concern are expected to be impacted by the project. Therefore, no Biological Assessment or further Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is required with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed and proposed species or species of concern becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered. A compilation of federally listed endangered and threatened species in West Virginia is enclosed for your information.

Our review of the National Wetlands Inventory 7½-minute topographic maps indicates no wetlands occur on the site. However, definitive determinations of the presence of waters of the United States, including wetlands, and the need for permits, if any, are made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They may be contacted at: Huntington District, Regulatory Branch, 502 Eighth Street, Huntington, West Virginia 25701, telephone (304)529-5710.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please have your staff contact Shane Jones of my staff, or contact me directly, at (304) 636-6586, or at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey K. Towner

Jeffrey K. Towner
Field Supervisor

Enclosure